



The Royal Dutch Marines open their doors for May Day

Since the first open house ten years ago, it has become an island tradition to take the family to the Marine Camp in Saveneta for May Day. There are always several exciting activities to keep everyone happy, flea market shopping for Mom, fun and games for the kids, and beer and barbecue for Dad. It is a special day that gives islanders and insight into the operations of the Royal Dutch Marines.

Midday the helicopter crew presented an impressive show of acrobatic aerial maneuvers to an awed audience and throughout the day, the marines staged mock skirmishes and invasions from the waterfront.

Curious kids could investigate armament, field radios, and all the aspects of marine life, and even take home a souvenir photo.

Many non-profit foundations such as the Donkey Sanctuary, Wayaca Animal Rescue and the Arikok National Park were present to teach youngsters about respecting and protecting wild and domestic animals and their environment. They offered donkey rides, educational materials, and kittens for adoption. Very popular in the past few years is the conversion of the gymnasium for rock climbing and a night vision encounter amongst a number of attractions and entertainments, aside from welcome air-conditioned break from the sun. May Day at the Marine Camp is not only educational entertainment, combined with a variety of food vendors and shopping it is similar to spending a day at a theme park!

Every year the marines take great pleasure in welcoming the islanders to the camp, and all the proceeds from the May Day celebration are donated to a worthy cause. In the past the proceeds it provided special and necessary equipment for the severely physically and mentally handicapped of the Bibito Pin Center, assistance to the elderly, and a new "mud pool" (sand box filled with dirt) for Casa Cuna Progreso. The services and attractions offered were extensive, and this year it looks like attendance was record-breaking, so some worthy cause will likely benefit well from the May Day festivities this year!